

# *The Byword*

*A Village Magazine for  
Byfield*

*April/May 2018*



## Magazine and Parish Information

A magazine published by Holy Cross Church, Byfield, for all the residents in the village. The magazines are issued in February, April, June, August, October and December. Contributions are always welcome: copy to the Editor by the first Sunday of the preceding month, please.

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### Parish Church of Holy Cross:

<b>Rector</b>	Revd. Stevie Cross	Tel: 260204
<b>Associate Priest:</b>	Revd. Geoff Moore	Tel: 264927
<b>Churchwarden:</b>	Mrs Chris Cross, 28 Bell Lane	Tel: 260764

<b>Hon. Treasurer:</b>	Miss Pam Hicks, 1 Edwards Close	Tel: 261257
<b>Deputy Treasurer:</b>	Mrs Diana Charters,.	Tel: 261725

**Services:** Details on back cover.

**Baptisms, Banns, Marriages, Funerals:** Contact Revd. Stevie Cross as above

<b>Choir Practice:</b>	Wednesdays at 7.00pm.	
<b>Organist:</b>	Mr Eric Bates, The Retreat, Claydon	Tel: 01295 690665
<b>Choir Mistress:</b>	Mrs Alison Buck ( <a href="mailto:alisonbuck@waitrose.com">alisonbuck@waitrose.com</a> )	Tel: 260977
<b>Bell ringing Practice:</b>	Fridays at 8.00pm.	
<b>Tower Captain:</b>	Mr James Grennan	Tel: 261596

### Methodist Church:

<b>Minister:</b>	Revd. Lin Francis ( <a href="mailto:bancir@outlook.com">bancir@outlook.com</a> )	Tel: 01295 262602
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### R.C. Church of the Sacred Heart, Main Street, Aston le Walls:

<b>Parish Priest:</b>	Father James Evans, The Presbytery, Aston le Walls	Tel: 01295 660592
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### Useful Telephone Numbers

Byfield Medical Centre	01327 265841
Urgent medical concerns 24/7	111
Rural Wheels	01327 263627/260878
Byfield School	01327 260349
Byfield Nursery	01327 264230
Daventry District Council	01327 871100
Or <a href="http://www.daventrydc.gov.uk/">www.daventrydc.gov.uk/</a>	
Daventry Library	0300 1261000
Police (non-emergency)	03000 111222
Fire Headquarters	01604 797000
Ambulance Headquarters	01604 230555
Horton Hospital	01295 275500
N'pton Gen Hospital	01604 634700
Danetre Hospital	01327 708800
Rugby Hospital	01788 572831

Stagecoach (Banbury)	01865 772250
TRANSCO Gas	0800 111 999
Anglian Water	0800 771 881
Thames Water (sewers)	0845 9200 800
Environment Agency Floodline	0845 9881188
Powergen (general)	08455 191523
(emergencies)	0800 056 8090
E.ON	0904 545 0286
Western Power	0800 6783 105

To report an abandoned vehicle:  
Call ELVIS on 08456 121 999

Northants County Council	0300 126 1000
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OUT-OF-HOURS CHEMIST  
Daventry Day and Night Pharmacy,  
St. Johns Square is open until 9pm  
01327 706320

# FACE TO FACE WITH ROB LOWE

BY CHRIS CROSS, PHOTO BY ALAN BAILEY



Rob is the sort of person who quietly goes about his business and does not seek the limelight and yet has made a big impact on the quality of sporting life in Byfield and Daventry. Married to the effervescent Marilyn and living in the heart of the village opposite the War Memorial, he has also been at the heart of some of the decisions and responsibilities bettering the leisure life of Byfield residents over the past few decades.

Rob was born in Northampton on May 2<sup>nd</sup> 1948 but moved to West Street in Banbury when he was 2 years old. The house there backed on to the railway, marshalling yards and sports ground ... perhaps a pointer to Rob's future lifetime involvement with sport. As a child Rob attended St. Leonard's Primary School and then Banbury Grammar School. His first ever trophy was won playing in the Primary Schools Football Final at Banbury Spencer ground but his love for football had

to take a second place to rugby at the Grammar School. However, he still kept his footie skills going on the side by playing for the Boys' Brigade and Old Easingtonians. Strangely, his involvement with cricket had to wait until, as an adult he started playing for Byfield Cricket Club. Part of the reason for this was that his father was such an outstanding cricketer that Rob was told, "You'll never be as good as your dad!", and so he didn't even try. In fact, his father was one of the 20 founders of Banbury Twenty Cricket Club (hence the name).

On leaving school Rob decided not to go to University so looked for a sandwich scheme where he could train as an accountant. He started with Ford in Essex, attending North East London Polytechnic at the same time, then came to Daventry.

Rob met his future wife, Marilyn, as she worked in Banbury and moved in the same social circles. They started life together at Bodicote Chase but after 5 years Rob was finding the travelling back and forwards to Daventry a bit onerous and also wanted the children to attend a village school. So the couple bought a property in Byfield, although before they could move into it they had to undertake 6 month's hard work of renovating, especially as no-one had been upstairs for 15 years!

Rob is a proud family man and father of Daniel (who has just come back from Australia and is living in Poole), Sam (currently in Australia and married with 3 children) and Amy (with her partner and baby in Woodford Halse).

Rob worked for 40 years at Ford, retiring in early 2005. during this time being heavily involved in Ford Sports and Social Club, both as Treasurer and Chairman. In addition, he was the President of the highly successful Ford Sports Football team, who were winners of the UCL premier division twice and several other trophies and FA cup encounters. Rob's accounting skills were well used by Daventry Rugby Club, who made him a Life Vice President and Guest of Honour at their annual lunch as a result.

For virtually the whole time he has been in Byfield Rob has been Treasurer of the Cricket Club and helped with the Village Hall Committee and the formation of the Brightwell Recreation Ground Association. He also ran Byfield Summer Skittles League for several years after the passing of Albert Wheeler. Currently he acts as village correspondent for the local papers ensuring all our events are recorded in the village column.

In his spare time Rob now enjoys reading, walking and studying antiques. He is a keen member of Daventry Ramblers and takes his turn in organising walks .... you sometimes see him round the village heading a posse of people equipped with boots and sticks and looking very intent on eating up the miles!

On the antiques front you may have caught an episode of Antiques Road Show 2 years ago from Broughton Castle which featured Rob, Marilyn and an ornate silver tankard which excited experts and presenters alike. Marilyn wanted to go along and have her silver piece of eight valued and as an afterthought the couple took with them a tankard in a bureau which had been left to Rob by his father. Amazingly the experts were not very interested in Marilyn's piece of eight but the tankard (which you can see in the photo) caused a great frisson of speculation. Originally they thought it came from the Dutch East Indies and was late 18<sup>th</sup> century. In the event, after careful scrutiny by even greater experts, it was revealed to be actually late 16<sup>th</sup> century, English and extremely rare, the only other examples being in the Queen's collection at Windsor. It was thought to be worth about £25000 but actually sold for a bit more (although of course commission etc. had to come off that). This proved to be the sort of windfall we all dream of and has enabled Rob and Marilyn to set up a fund for visits to the family in Australia. Most of their holidays are now taken there so they tend not to travel anywhere else abroad.



After a very busy life Rob is now content with his lot and to be where he is. He still aims to lead an active life both physically and continue with his village involvement ... as long as the body keeps up! And so say all of us!!!

## Face to face questions for Rob

### 1. What is your earliest memory?

Being on the footplate of a steam locomotive and watching fried egg being cooked on the shovel. I was taken there by a neighbour who was either an engine driver or fireman and our house in West Street actually backed onto the Banbury marshalling yards.

### 2. As a child you wanted to be?

A professional footballer or cricketer.

### 3. Advice you would give your teenage self?

Not to play the fool at school and waste time. Someone told me, 'If you play the fool at school, that's all you'll be able to play afterwards!' That thought jolted me into suddenly working hard in the fifth form so I could go on to the sixth.

### 4. Your best quality?

That's not for me to say!

(His wife Marilyn said, "He is a good organiser and he's kind .... sometimes!")

### 5. And your worst?

I do not suffer fools gladly!

## **6. Something that really irritates you?**

Inequality, bias and political decisions made purely for political ends.

## **7. Lark or owl?**

Definitely a lark. I like to be up by 7 a.m so I can walk down to the shop and collect my paper when it first arrives then have a couple of hours to myself before Marilyn emerges. It is my best time of the day when I can think the clearest.

## **8. One thing that would make your life better?**

New knees! I think a lifetime of playing sport has over worked them.

## **9. Who would you most like to be stuck on a desert island with?**

Ray Mears, the survival specialist, so he could get us off it quickly!

## **10. One thing you can't live without (apart from family and friends)?**

Walking ... for the enjoyment of the open air, the time to 'stand and stare' and also the camaraderie that walking with others brings.

## **11. If you won the lottery how would you spend it?**

I would donate the money for a new village hall, enlarge the Brightwell field so it contained two separate football pitches and erect a state of the art pavilion.

## **12. The most valuable thing you've gained from living in Byfield?**

A sense of belonging and community.

## **13. When are you truly happiest?**

In the pub after a good walk with friends and family.

## **14. Last chosen meal on this Earth?**

Chateaubriand with a Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon. I am particularly attached to this wine as I met it when I went on my son Sam's honeymoon in Australia's Margaret River region with 23 others. (Yes really! Apparently Sam's new wife invited Byfield cricket players and partners to enjoy their holiday with them!)

\* \* \* \* \*

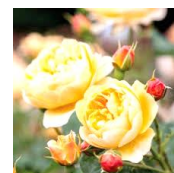
## **OUTING TO DAVID AUSTIN ROSES Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> June**

Byfield Over 60s has arranged a day trip to see these wonderful gardens, near to Telford. A coach has been booked and there are seats available to anyone who would like to come along. You do not need to be a club member or be over 60.

The cost is £40 which includes the coach, a two-course lunch and afternoon tea at David Austin and a conducted tour of the rose gardens.

Please contact Angela Weller on (01327) 260022 or by email to [wellerbyfield@waitrose.com](mailto:wellerbyfield@waitrose.com) for any more details or to book seats.

The full price for our party has to be paid to David Austin before the end of April.



## From the Byfield Belfry

Well, the time old question of how many steps to the ringing chamber has been answered by our two new ringers Alfie and Jack; that there are indeed forty steps. Now with Alfie and Jack on the case, we now have no excuse but to climb the forty steps and get on with our ringing. With our two new ringers we were able to have eight Byfield ringers for service ringing. This has not happened for a few years and I hope we can continue this tradition.

We have our Guild six bell striking competition in April at Flore. I hope to place a Byfield team in and will let you know the outcome in our next issue.

We practice Friday nights from 7:30 to 9 PM and for scheduled Sunday services in the benefice. There is also ringing at Boddington on Monday, Newnham on Wednesday and ringing on Tuesday mornings 10 am at Helidon. In March we have the team support practice at Whilton and in Byfield in April. The Byfield AGM is due this month I hope to announce a date soon!

If you would like to know more about our bells please go to link:

<http://daventrybranch.btck.co.uk/Bellinscriptions>

All are welcome, if you need more information please go to:

<http://daventrybranch.btck.co.uk/> or contact me.

Byfield Tower Captain

*James Grennan 261 596*



## GET FIT THIS SUMMER OR PREPARE FOR NEXT TERM AT UNIVERSITY.

As my cycling days may well be over I'd like to find good local homes for some bikes, the product of my past vintage-bike-building hobby. These are all old (1950's to 1990's) possibly dusty and needing tyre inflation but safe and sound. Any faults (few) will be disclosed. These are all good quality—Nottingham-built Raleighs at a minimum up to a couple of rare hand-built "specials. And a titanium framed Raleigh M-trax, if that means anything to anyone!

I'm sorry these can't be freebies for two reasons. One is that where I've spent money on new parts I'd like back what I've spent. The second is that no-one appreciates anything they haven't paid for or worked for and I don't want to see my past efforts on the dump in a month's time. Prices at a guess £30 to £350 depending on which bike you choose.



To discuss any interest or details phone John on 260483.



Keeping the RBL **ALIVE** in this area needs **PEOPLE!**

Look for us on the Web, just search: Byfield Legion



*The Lost Chord Singers*  
(Byfield's own community choir)

invite you to a....



**Mini Music Festival!!**

**Saturday 19th May**

**Byfield Village Hall**

**7.30pm**

With:

The Lost Chord Singers

Duke's Ukes

Harbury Folk Club Choir

MultiVoce

Tickets £5

available from:

Pat Cannell (260483), Ann Caldwell (260993),

Diana Charters (260113)

or any choir member

Licensed Bar

Light refreshments

# Byfield Parish Council

*The Parish Council has its own website [www.byfieldparishcouncil.org.uk/](http://www.byfieldparishcouncil.org.uk/) where all agendas, minutes and useful documents can be seen. The Parish Council normally meets on the second Thursday of the month in the meeting room of the village hall starting at 19.30 hrs. Members of the press and public are always welcome to attend.*

## **Chairman's Report**

The start of 2018 sees our County Council facing severe financial problems and passing a budget with huge cuts in services. One particular sad loss for our village is the axing of the mobile library service although there is a replacement of sorts called Library to You, to find out more email Woodford Halse Library [woodlib@firstforwellbeing.co.uk](mailto:woodlib@firstforwellbeing.co.uk) . Unfortunately, the library is only open one day per week for 4 hours so a response maybe delayed.

Unlike County and District Councils the Parish Council does not have any statutory obligation to provide services although here in Byfield we aim to provide a range of facilities and services for our community. Fortunately, Parish Councils are not subject to financial capping but most (including Byfield) only have one assured revenue stream which is the precept charged to all households in the Parish. In building our budget for 2018/19 we were mindful of needing to try and improve the village and although this has resulted in an increase in the precept we have also agreed to spend some of our reserves to keep that increase to a minimum without impacting on the benefits we aim to bring to our community.

## **Parish Council and Local (District) elections**

The District and Parish Council elections in May. If you are interested in serving our community, please keep an eye out for the Notice of Elections which will appear on our noticeboard next to the petrol station. Alternatively go to:

<https://www.daventrydc.gov.uk/your-council/council-and-democracy/elections/> for more detailed information.

Everyone is welcome to stand and with 11 places to fill there is a distinct need for villagers to come forward. The existing Parish Council would particularly encourage those with an interest in grant applications and helping to manage a social media presence / communication strategy to seek nomination.

Parish Councillor Alan Bailey will retire in April and we are very grateful to him for his efforts and contributions, he will stay active with the Royal British Legion and the Big Breakfast as well as his interest in vintage motorbikes.

District Councillor Bob Patchett has looked after the interests of Byfield for two terms now and has decided to step down in May. Bob has been a friend to our village and a great support to the Parish Council, we wish him good luck in the things he does next.

## **Brightwell Recreation Ground**

The Brightwell is a public open space owned and managed by the Parish Council, we believe that it is a great asset to the village and know that it is well used by both folks from Byfield and further

afield. The efforts of a small number of volunteers keep it in good condition particularly considering the amount of use it gets.

We experience occasional graffiti on the sport pavilion which is frustrating, unsightly and just costs time and effort to rectify. If anyone has any knowledge of who is doing this, please contact the clerk or any parish councillor.

## **Planning**

The Parish Council continues to engage with the Medical Centre on the matter of a new surgery and 90 new houses.

All other planning applications, parish council comments and the record of decisions can be found in the Parish Council minutes on our website. Items of interest recently include:

Listed Building Consent for various internal and external repairs and alterations – Banbury Lane

Single storey rear extension and two storey side extension, internal and external repairs and alterations – Banbury Lane

Raising height of existing front gable – Westthorpe Mews

Plans for a rear and front extension in Becketts Close were approved as was an application to demolish and replace the school hall

## **Footpaths**

We continue to monitor the local footpaths and to engage with the landowners (who have responsibility for things like gates and stiles). Please report any problems to Cllr Alan Bailey.

One particular problem area at the moment is the footpath from the Twistle to the reservoir where there is an increasing amount of uncollected dog faeces. This is disgusting and simply because the path is in open countryside does not excuse dog owners from collecting the droppings and taking them away. Please follow the country code and clean up!

## **Lights and Utilities**

Please report any problems to Cllr Beer in the first instance

## **Traffic Monitoring**

The “Parish Council owns a Speed Monitoring Device (SID) which is moved regularly around the village to collect data on traffic volumes and speed and also to act as a reminder to drivers if they are speeding i.e. over 30 mph within the village confines. SID has recently been installed on the Woodford Road monitoring traffic coming into the village. We are interested in the volume of traffic as the new housing development in Woodford Halse is occupied.

Our data collection in the High Street showed that most traffic was driving within the national speed limits.

## Pocket Park - Working Party

We have work starting to clear the hedge between the allotments and the Farndon Road, and also to clear some of the very old elders between the wood and the allotments. Once this has been finished, I plan to get some whips of young hedging plants, to replace the hedge with native trees and plants. We are also looking at some replacement fencing and some tree removal as this area has not had any maintenance for many years.

If you would like to come and help clear/ nurture in 2018 there will always be biscuits and hot drinks. We usually work from 10 -12. Please bring tools. Dates for the next few months are:

Friday March 23<sup>rd</sup>

Friday April 13<sup>th</sup>

Friday May 18<sup>th</sup>

Many thanks, Pom Boddington . [pom.boddington@outlook.com](mailto:pom.boddington@outlook.com)

As spring approaches villagers are asked to inspect the boundaries to their property and consider if they have any trees, shrubs or hedges which are growing into the footpath and making it difficult or hazardous for others to pass by.

John Gillic – Chair, Byfield Parish Council

Clerk to the Council – Mrs Angela Weller, 18 Church Street, Byfield, Daventry NN11 6XN  
Tel 01327 260022 e-mail – [clerk@byfieldparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@byfieldparishcouncil.org.uk)

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## COUNCILLORS

NAME	TELEPHONE e-mail address	AREAS OF INTEREST
John Gillic 28 Banbury Lane	262917 <a href="mailto:j.gillicbpc@icloud.com">j.gillicbpc@icloud.com</a>	Council CHAIRMAN Burial Ground
Alan Bailey 8 Becketts Close	260590 <a href="mailto:alanbailey497@gmail.com">alanbailey497@gmail.com</a>	Highways Rights of Way
John Beer Westwards, Fessey Rd	263878	Lights Playground
Sally (Pom) Boddington 31 Bell Lane	263745 <a href="mailto:pom.boddington@outlook.com">pom.boddington@outlook.com</a>	Pocket Park Allotments

<b>Michael Buckley</b> 4 Farebrother Close	<b>262628</b> <a href="mailto:Mr.buckley@icloud.com">Mr.buckley@icloud.com</a>	<b>Website</b> <b>Risk Assessment</b> <b>Charities trustee</b>
<b>Christl Davis</b> 20 Westhorpe Lane	<b>261504</b> <a href="mailto:cckdavis3@gmail.com">cckdavis3@gmail.com</a>	<b>Council Property</b> <b>Charities trustee</b>
<b>Barbara Ridyard</b> The Old Chapel The Green	<b>612482</b> <a href="mailto:pcbus9217@gmail.com">pcbus9217@gmail.com</a>	<b>Planning</b> <b>Trees</b>
<b>Simon Shepherd</b> 19 The Twistle	<b>262177</b> <a href="mailto:simon@haymakingservices.co.uk">simon@haymakingservices.co.uk</a>	<b>Maintenance and</b> <b>Groundworks</b>

**District Councillor – Bob Patchett, 2a Station Road, West Haddon, NN6 7AU**  
**Tel 07773 383309 (day)**  
**[bob.patchett@btopenworld.com](mailto:bob.patchett@btopenworld.com)**

**County Councillor - Robin Brown, Leadership Support, NCC, County Hall,**  
**Northampton, NN1 1AT Tel 01604 367813**  
**[rwbrown@northamptonshire.gov.uk](mailto:rwbrown@northamptonshire.gov.uk)**

*The Parish Council meets on the second Thursday of each month usually in the lower annex of the village hall. All meetings are open to the public and there is an opportunity to ask questions and make comments.*

## **BYFIELD PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Meeting dates 2018**

April (revised)	Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> Thurs 26 <sup>th</sup>	Full Council (Planning) and <b>Annual Parish Meeting.</b>
<b>May</b>	<b>Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Election of Parish Council</b>
May	Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> Thurs 24	Full Council including Annual Meeting (Planning)
Half term break w/c 28 May		
June (revised)	Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> Thursday 28	Full Council (Planning)

July (revised)	Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> Thursday 26	Full Council (Planning)
August	Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> Thursday 23	Full Council (Planning)
September	Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> Thursday 27	Full Council (Planning)
October	Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> Thursday 25	Full Council (Planning)
November	Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> Thursday 22	Full Council (Planning)
December	Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> To be agreed	Full Council Planning, if needed

Planning meetings on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday will only take place if needed. The usual notice will be given.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Royal British Legion



### Grand Pilgrimage 90

10 years after the end of World War 1 veterans and war widows made a pilgrimage to visit the battlefields of the Somme and Ypres before marching to the Menin Gate in Ypres on the 8<sup>th</sup> August 1928.

Over 1000 branches with their Standards will be replicating that pilgrimage from the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup> of August this year.

Two members of our Branch will be on the pilgrimage.

They would be pleased to take a cross and place it on an individual war grave or at the Menin Gate, for anyone who so wishes.

Please contact me on 01327 260433 for further information

Russ Mallace

### Meeting Dates

Tuesday 10 April 8 p.m. at the Griffin, Chipping Warden

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May 8 p.m. at Byfield Village Hall

Knock-knock.  
Who's there?  
Mikey.  
Mikey who?  
Mikey doesn't fit in the keyhole. Let me in!

Knock-knock.  
Who's there?  
Justin.  
Justin who?  
Justin time for dinner!

## LibraryPlus Mobile Library Service – immediate withdrawal of service

As you will no doubt be aware, the public consultation around the future of the Library Service has included the deletion of the Mobile Library Service and the service has been running as normal pending the final Council decision.

However, due to the age and the condition of the vehicle, there is a risk of incurring expensive repair work each time it goes out and the recent spending controls imposed by the Director of Finance under Section 114 mean that we have had to withdraw the service with immediate effect.

We will be contacting all existing Mobile Library customers individually to explain the situation. We have also made arrangements for our Mobile Library Driver to continue to visit the mobile library stops for one last visit to see as many customers as possible. He will be stopping at the normal place at the normal time, but in a different vehicle, to collect stock from customers. If customers are not able to attend the last mobile library visit they can return any items to any of our libraries. All overdue charges will be waived.

**Any residents who would like to continue to use the library service, but are unable to visit their nearest library, can be considered for home delivery through our Library to You service. They can either speak to our mobile van driver at his last visit, or contact their nearest library for further details.**

More information on a planned expansion of the Library to You service will be announced in due course.



## 2018 TENNIS COACHING IN BYFIELD

**FREE TENNIS FOR KIDS** Our LTA coaches are offering a FREE 4-week Introduction to Tennis Course for Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 children on Fridays 20th April to 11th May 4pm until 4.45pm.

**RUSTY RACQUETS/BEGINNERS** at 8.30-9.30 pm on Fridays, commencing 20-4-18. Open to all adult beginners/out of practice players.

**IMPROVE YOUR DOUBLES PLAY** for intermediate + tennis club members Saturday morning 21<sup>st</sup> April

Please text Head Coach Peter Cowley on 07539 244155 for full details of the above coaching and to reserve a space on our free junior programme (limited places).

Existing player? Byfield Tennis Club has members from Byfield and most of the surrounding villages. On our 3 floodlit courts, we have club nights, competitive teams in the Banbury Leagues and an active adult and junior coaching programme. Club membership details from Sue Waterhouse 01327 261940.

**Holy Cross Church**



# **Daffodil Day**



**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> April**

**3 - 5pm**

**in the Church**

**Refreshments**

**Cake Stall**

**Tombola Stall**



## **1st Woodford Halse Guides**

As usual we have had a busy, fun and exciting term of activities for the 1st Woodford Halse Guide unit, based in Byfield. We meet on a Monday night and our activities this term have included ice skating, a 'Ready Steady Cook!' challenge and playing games in the dark. We have a trip to Cadbury World planned as well as a camp in the New Forest in August. Our unit is growing quickly but there are still some spaces for girls age 10-14.

This week for World Thinking Day we decorated stones and will be leaving them for people to find, and we hope that people who find them will put a photo on our Facebook page and then re-hide them. Let's see how far the Guiding message will spread!

Sarah and Sian - Unit leaders  
[Facebook.com/WoodfordGuides](https://www.facebook.com/WoodfordGuides)  
[woodfordguides@icloud.com](mailto:woodfordguides@icloud.com)

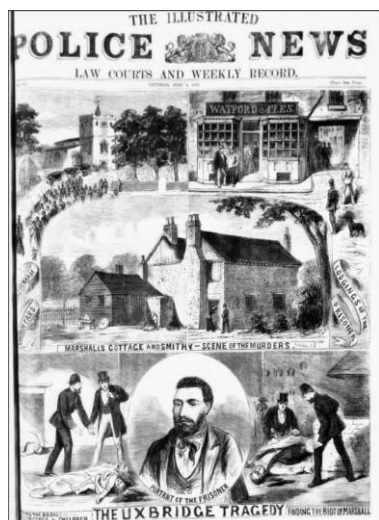


# John Owen, son of Byfield, mass murderer 1870

*The Denham Massacre: Nineteenth-century Britain's Most Shocking House of Horror Murders*

by Neil Watson

What role does Byfield play in the one of the worst crimes of 19<sup>th</sup> century British criminal history I hear you ask? Well, the answer is that John Owen, who was born and bred in Byfield was responsible for murdering a family of 7 people on 22 May 1870. This crime was an international news story which appeared on the front page of the Police Illustrated News two weeks running. I came across this almost forgotten story by accident 4 years ago, and after discovering it, set out to find out what happened. Who were the victims? What was the motive? Who was the culprit, and what happened to him?



As a result of my research, Thames Valley Police Museum produced a new glass display cabinet with items from the murders. The crime was one of awful violence and brutality where three generations of one family were axed to death by a cold blooded murderer, John Owen. His father had been a tailor and the family were very well thought of locally. John did not follow his father's occupation, but he became an apprentice to local blacksmith Thomas Mason. During his apprenticeship, John suffered a nasty blow to the head while working at the Byfield Rectory. This may have had serious consequences for John later on.

Owen left Byfield and moved to Shipston, where he started getting into trouble. He was charged with stealing a gun and was later referred to by the locals as 'Jack the cat killer'. He later left the area

to go 'tramping' the country. He regularly got himself into trouble for stealing things.

Eventually he fell out with the blacksmith in the village of Denham, Bucks over a debt when Owen decided to visit the blacksmith and take his revenge. This resulted in 7 murders being perpetrated by Owen.

The house must truly have resembled a house of horror. The victims were aged 4, 6, 8, 32, 34, 36 and 77, and had all suffered appalling head injuries.

I have now written a book called the Denham Massacre in order to tell the story of the events properly with an in depth study. I have painstakingly researched the history of this unique case which makes an amazing, yet horrifying story of Victorian villainy.

The book tells you more about Owen and Byfield as well as the police investigation and subsequent murder trial. It's fully illustrated with 66 images.

The 283 page book is available online, via Mango Books [www.mangobooks.co.uk](http://www.mangobooks.co.uk)

It will also be available via Amazon in kindle format *after* the launch date on 28 March 2018.

£15 hardback + P&P, £4.99 kindle.

ISBN: 978-1-911273-34-9 (hardcover)

ISBN: 978-1-911273-35-6 (ebook)

You can follow me on Twitter

**Neil Watson@neilhistory** or on my Denham Massacre Facebook Page





## Gearing up for major bin collection changes this summer

People living in Daventry District are encouraged to find out more about major changes to their waste and recycling collections launching this summer.

The new 123+ waste and recycling collection service will start in June 2018, delivered by Daventry Norse, a new joint venture between Daventry District Council (DDC) and Norse Commercial Services Ltd.

From June 2018 households in Daventry District will receive:

- 1 weekly food waste collection
- 2 weekly mixed recycling collection in a new blue-lidded wheelie bin
- 3 weekly general waste black bin collection
- + Plus an optional 2-weekly garden waste service for an annual fee of £35 per bin a year.

The changes are being introduced as Daventry District cannot afford to carry on with its current waste and recycling service, both environmentally and financially. Changing black bin collections from fortnightly to three-weekly will help encourage more recycling and reduce the money spent on treating and disposing of rubbish.

The Council will also be improving the recycling service to help residents slim their bins, introducing a new wheelie bin for mixed recycling that provides more space over two weeks than the current recycling boxes collected weekly.

It is likely that collection days will change for households from June 2018 in order to introduce the new service arrangements across the District. Further details will be provided to all households nearer to the time, including an information pack and new calendar.



# ***Village Hall News***

## **Annual Village Quiz**

This most enjoyable quiz is a popular fixture in the village calendar. In memory of John Caldwell who served on, and was chairman of, the Village Hall committee for many years. All profits go to the Village Hall.

## ***Annual Village Quiz***

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> April**

**Byfield Village Hall**

**7.00pm for 7.30pm start**

**£10 per team**

**Licenced bar and Barbara's bacon baps.**

...and here is Round 1 to get you going: (*Answers below.*)

1. Last Year, how much was spent on repairs and refurbishment of the Village Hall?
2. How much was spent on electricity for the VH last year?
3. Keeping the VH spick and span costs about (how much) per year?

*Answers: 1. Over £8,000; 2. £2,277; 3. £3,250*

So, you can see we need the money.

Please give your support by coming and having a great evening.

***The Village Hall AGM will be held on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> May, 7pm in the main hall. The Village Hall is a community facility and is maintained by a team of volunteers. All clubs, societies and village hall users should have a representative on the committee but this is not exclusive. Tea and coffee will be provided. Please attend.***

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEARN LEADERSHIP SKILLS? CAN YOU INSPIRE?

### Cub Scout Leader

Every year we help over 450,000 young people in the UK enjoy new adventures; to experience the outdoors, interact with others, gain confidence and have the opportunity to reach their full potential. And it's not just young people who can gain. You can too – as a Cub Scout Leader with **1st Byfield Scout Group**. Training can provide skills from lighting a fire to providing exciting programmes for the Cubs.

Why not strengthen your CV while making a real impact on the lives of young people 8 to 10 ½ years old?

We'll make sure you're properly trained and supported, no experience necessary but any

you have will help. Training, in many different formats, can be done to fit in with your life and you could gain recognised Leadership and skill qualifications. At the same time as enjoying all the activities the Cub Scouts do!

### INTERESTED?

**Contact: Helen Mason**

Helen Mason at [gsl.1stbyfield@gmail.com](mailto:gsl.1stbyfield@gmail.com)  
01295 660508



The cubs started back with a trip to the pantomime, enjoying Cinderella at Eydon, have passed their Emergency Aid level 2 badge, looked back in time in Tudor days with the District Founders Day event at Sulgrave Manor, and much more!

**Places available for Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, just contact anyone below**

Contacts	Helen Mason	01295 660508 email: <a href="mailto:gsl.1stByfield@gmail.com">gsl.1stByfield@gmail.com</a>
	Sally Huband	07900 212064
	David Ward	07557 964043 email: <a href="mailto:chil.1stByfieldCubs@yahoo.com">chil.1stByfieldCubs@yahoo.com</a>
	Michelle Dickinson	email: <a href="mailto:beavers.1stByfield@gmail.com">beavers.1stByfield@gmail.com</a>
	Paul Richardson	01327 264653 Group Chairman

**Byfield Bowls Club is looking for bowlers of all ages and abilities to join us this season. We offer excellent facilities, a good standard of play and a relaxed and friendly atmosphere to learn and play the game, recreationally or competitively - and all for just £10!**

**Call Chris Cross on 01327 260764, visit our website or weather permitting, join us at our Open Day on Saturday 21st April at 2.30pm. Bowls will be provided so you'll just need a pair of flat-soled shoes.**



**[www.byfieldbowls.co.uk](http://www.byfieldbowls.co.uk)**



## Rising Stars!



A Church youth group for those age 8 – 12 years will meet on the third Thursday in the month in term time from 6 – 7.30pm in Byfield Scout Hut.



Come and play games, share a bible story, take part in discussion, join in drama, complete challenges, do some craft, maybe some cooking, share food, have fun!

Cost: £1

**First meeting: Thursday, 19 April, see you there!**

If you have any questions ring Lesley Palmer on 01327 26437



In January Little Angels met in Holy Cross Church to celebrate Epiphany, the time when we remember the coming of the Wise Men to visit baby Jesus, bringing gifts. The children helped to tell the story by bringing the star, the wise men, camels and gifts to Joseph, Mary and Jesus in the stable. We talked about the different gifts that they brought.



In February fifteen children and their families gathered round the font to talk about baptism and remember when John baptised his cousin Jesus in the River Jordan. We decided we were pretty pleased that we were not submerged in the Cherwell for our baptism! We then 'followed' Jesus into the desert to hear how he was tempted to do the wrong thing just as we are often tempted to make the wrong choices.

After finishing our worship with singing and vigorous percussion, the children enjoyed seeing how high they could build a tower like the high tower that Jesus climbed. Logan's and Sarah's were taller than they were! Lula made a beautiful angel like the angels that watched over Jesus in the desert.

Little Angels meets on the third Monday in the month from 2 – 3.30pm during term time in Holy Cross Church, Byfield. Do come and join us!

## Priors Cinema



Friday 20<sup>th</sup> April

### Battle of the Sexes

*Year of Release: 2017    Certificate PG*  
*Running Time: 2 hours 1 min*

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> May

### Victoria & Abdul

*Year of Release: 2017    Certificate 12*  
*Running Time: 1 hour 47mins*

My name is Linda McKendrick and I have recently moved to Byfield. I have found everyone so welcoming and I am looking forward to joining some of the groups. There is so much on offer in the village and I am looking forward to getting involved.

I want to make a difference in my Community by helping as many people as I can to save money not only at home but in their businesses too so I have some questions for you.

Are you happy with your current Utility providers?

Do they offer you award winning Customer Service year in and year out?

Do they know your name when you give them a call?

When they bring out all their shiny new offers, Do they give them to you or are they just for the New Customers?

And finally do they offer you the chance to earn an extra income month in month out for doing something just once?

If the answer to any of these questions is No, then give me a call to find out more on 07849 667102

**I CHALLENGE YOU TO CHALLENGE ME.....**

Linda McKendrick  
Utility Warehouse  
Authorised Distributor



*Happy Easter  
to all our readers*



## KIDS LOVE TO DANCE!

### MINI MOVERS

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A fun musical dance class for 0-5 yrs.  
Props are used and children learn the art of dance, song and mime.

*Hot Drink & Biscuits for Parents*



**Southam**  
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Insight Park  
Southam  
CV47 1NE

**Wednesday**  
9.30am - 10.30am

**Friday**  
10.00am - 11.00am

**Cawston**  
Cawston Community Hall  
Scholars Drive  
Rugby  
CV22 7GU

**Friday**  
10.00am - 11.00am

**Leamington Spa**  
St Marys Church Hall  
St Marys Road  
Leamington Spa  
CV31 1JW

**Friday**  
10.00am - 11.00am

**Contact Miss Lorraine** lorraine@loveballet.co.uk 07921 853773  
www.loveballet.co.uk



## LOVE TO DANCE?

### CLASSES TO SUIT EVERYONE!

**Boddington Southam Woodford**



LoveBallet is a leading Dance School in Warwickshire, Oxfordshire and Northamptonshire. Established in 2007 we are dedicated to every pupil - for those wishing to dance for fun or to train for a career in dance. You will be taught by ex-pro dancers who are fully qualified and experienced teachers.

**Contact Miss Lorraine**  
lorraine@loveballet.co.uk  
07921 853773  
www.loveballet.co.uk

**Upper Boddington**  
Upper Boddington Village Hall  
Warwick Road, NN11 6DH

**Monday**  
Adult Ballet Fitness (no exp req)  
10.45am - 11.45am  
Zumba (Over 50's)  
11.45am - 12.30pm

**FREE TRIAL FOR ALL CLASSES**  
(ex Mini Movers & Zumba)

**100% EXAMINATION PASS RATE**  
Thousands of Entries

**Saturday**  
Prima Ballerinas (3-5 yrs)  
9.00am - 9.45am  
Gymnastics 1 (3-6 yrs)  
9.45am - 10.15am  
Intro to Ballet (5-7 yrs)  
10.15am - 11.00am  
Gymnastics 2 (6-8 yrs)  
11.00am - 11.30am  
Pre Primary Ballet (7-9 yrs)  
11.30am - 12.15pm  
Primary Ballet (9-10 yrs)  
12.15pm - 1.00pm  
Primary Modern & Street (6-9 yrs)  
1.00pm - 1.30pm  
Gymnastics 3 (8 yrs+)  
1.30pm - 2.00pm  
Grade 1 Ballet (10-11 yrs)  
2.00pm - 2.45pm  
Grade 1 Modern (10-12 yrs)  
2.45pm - 3.15pm  
Grade 2 Ballet (11-12 yrs)  
3.15pm - 4.00pm  
Grade 3 Modern (13 yrs+)  
4.00pm - 4.45pm  
Grade 3 Ballet (12-13 yrs)  
4.45pm - 5.30pm  
Grade 4 Ballet (14 yrs+)  
5.30pm - 6.15pm

**LoveBallet Studios**  
Insight Park  
Southam  
CV47 1NE

**Monday**  
Baby Ballet (18 mths+)  
9.30am - 10.15am

**Wednesday**  
Mini Movers (0-5 yrs)  
9.30am - 10.30am

**Friday**  
Mini Movers (0-5 yrs)  
10.00am - 11.00am

**Woodford Halse Social Club**  
29 Hinton Road  
Woodford Halse  
NN11 3TR

**Wednesday**  
Zumba Dance Fitness  
8.00pm - 9.00pm



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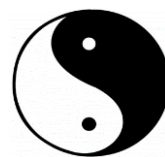
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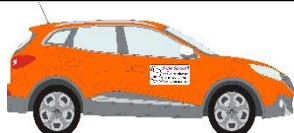


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**Tel 01327 317359**

**Email: [byfieldgardenmachinery@gmail.com](mailto:byfieldgardenmachinery@gmail.com)**

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*Don't need to make a Will?*

*Won't my assets pass to my partner or my  
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*Don't care if the Government gets 40%  
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**[www.ironandwood.co.uk](http://www.ironandwood.co.uk)**



## Volunteers and Helpers required

Do you have a passion or skill?

Byfield Nursery is looking for a select number of Volunteers and helpers who can bring some value and insight into their children's lives from the local community. We would like to speak to you if you have a spare 1-2 hours per month to invest.

Please get in touch if you have a bit of spare time, as the work will be very rewarding.

Byfield Nursery, Bell Lane, Byfield, Nr Daventry  
NN11 6US.

email [info@byfieldnursery.org.uk](mailto:info@byfieldnursery.org.uk)




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# Diary for the Fiveways Benefice of Aston le Walls, Boddington, Byfield, Eydon and Woodford Halse for April and May 2018

## APRIL

### Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> April

6am Sunrise service at Boddington  
9am Parish Communion at Eydon  
9.30am Parish Communion at Aston le Walls  
9.30am Parish Communion at Boddington  
10.30am Eccumenical Communion at Woodford Halse in the Methodist Church  
11am Parish Communion at Byfield

### Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> April

9am BCP Holy Communion at Eydon  
9.30am Parish Communion at Aston le Walls  
10am Café Church at The Nest, Woodford Halse  
11am Parish Communion at Byfield  
6pm Evening Prayer at Boddington

### Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> April

8.30am BCP Holy Communion at Aston le Walls  
9.15am Parish Communion at Eydon  
9.30am Parish Communion at Boddington  
11am Café Church at Byfield  
A new service for Byfield – do come along and find out what it is like  
11am Parish Communion at The Nest, Woodford Halse

### Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> April

10am Benefice Holy Communion at Byfield

### Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> April

10am Benefice Holy Communion at Boddington

### Holy Baptism

We welcome this child of God  
into the Lord's family:



Elena Doolan

## MAY

### Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> May

8.30am BCP Holy Communion at Byfield  
9.30am Parish Communion at Boddington  
10.30am Café Church at Eydon  
11am Holy Communion at Woodford Halse  
6pm Evening Prayer at Aston le Walls

### Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> May

9am BCP Holy Communion at Eydon  
9.30am Parish Communion at Aston le Walls  
10am Café Church at The Nest, Woodford Halse  
11am Parish Communion at Byfield  
6pm Evening Prayer at Boddington

### Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> May

8.30am BCP Holy Communion at Aston le Walls  
9.15am Parish Communion at Eydon  
9.30am Parish Communion at Boddington  
11am Café Church at Byfield  
11am Parish Communion at Woodford Halse

### Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> May

10am Benefice Said Holy Communion venue tba  
6pm Ecumenical Benefice service for World Day of Prayer at Byfield

### Bereavements

We offer our condolences to the family  
and friends of:



Marianne Waddoups

The deadline for the next Byword  
(June/July) will be Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> May  
2018.